

PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

Kittitas County Public Health Department Conducts Over 100 Inspections on Fair Weekend

Beginning Thursday September 4 and ending on Monday September 7, the Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) completed 117 inspections over the Kittitas County Fair weekend.

In addition to two food inspectors, KCPHD used four additional trained staff to complete the inspections.

With an average of 70,000 people visiting the Kittitas County Fair, preventing a food borne illness outbreak is essential.

It was reportedly a “mild” year. There were no food borne illnesses associated with fair weekend and the biggest intervention was requiring a food worker to go home, since the individual was ill that morning.

“Our goal was to create great working relationships with the vendors, since we all

want fair-goers to have a fun and safe experience” states Food Inspector Tristen Lamb. “We corrected issues on the spot and really focused on hand washing

facilities this year. “ Vendors, even low risk, were asked to immediately set up hand washing stations if inspectors did not note facilities.



A Note from the EH Supervisor: An Active Summer for Vector Prevention

When public health is in the news, people concentrate on the issue being reported. So, when KCPHD is in the media concerning mosquitos and rats, it is a good opportunity to detail exactly what our vector borne program does in our community.

The vector program monitors vector borne disease. Vectors are the organisms that transmit the disease. As a result, our main goal is prevention for contact with these vectors. We provide education and resources about maintaining private property in a way that does not encourage large

population growth (i.e. no standing water for mosquitos, no garbage piles for rats, etc.)

In addition to education, for some programs like West Nile virus prevention, we conduct sampling and testing of the vector. For others, we may test animals like bats, only if there is known contact with that specific animal to prevent rabies.

Information about positive test samples are provided to the public via press releases.

If there is a vector borne disease identified in a human in our county, medical providers are required by law to notify the local public health department.

The total annual budget to provide a vector control program is less than \$5,000 per year, which greatly limits staff time. Therefore, KCPHD operates on a complaint based system for vector issues.

We log complaints and follow up with property owners to provide instruction on prevention and mitigation.

Department-Wide

New Grants /Fund Sources	0
Active Volunteers	4
Health Data Requests	3
Quality Improvement Projects Completed	0
Media Contacts	24
Health Provider Releases	2
Community Engagements	101
Code/Policy Updates	0

Vital Records

Births Registered	100
Birth Certificates Issued	264
Deaths Registered	78
Death Certificates Issued	305

Access to Baby and Child Dentistry

Outreach Contacts	104
Referrals to Dentists	1

Communicable Disease (CD)

Tuberculosis Investigations	0
CD Investigations	87
Confirmed CD cases	19
Sexually Transmitted Diseases Reported	36
TB Tests Administered	51

Immunization

Total Vaccinations	210
Flu Vaccinations	22
Travel Vaccinations	5
Adults Receiving Vaccine	155
Children Receiving Vaccine	15
Travel Consultations	9

HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C

HIV Tests	3
Hepatitis C Tests	3
Syringe Exchange Participants	34
Syringes Exchanged	2905
Education Participants	34

Event Held to Raise Awareness about Overdose Prevention

August 31 was International Overdose Awareness Day to increase public recognition around increasing overdose rates in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), death from overdose is more frequent than death in a car accident.

Overdose is not as simple as “bad people making bad choices,” but rather a complicated



problem that often begins with a painful injury, trauma, or youthful experimentation.

In honor of Overdose Awareness, KCPHD hosted a small ceremony. Community members had a chance to light a candle, say a few words, and be surrounded by others who understand the pain of losing a dear one to drug overdose.

KCPHD Completes Electronic Cigarette Compliance Checks

On July 14, KCPHD staff along with a school aged youth and the Kittitas County Sheriff’s Office, conducted compliance checks at 21 local retailers.

The electronic or e-cigarette checks, were to determine if minors were accessing e-cigarettes by purchasing the product illegally.

During compliance checks, a

youth enters an establishment and attempts to purchase the product. Youth do not lie about their age or attempt to appear older during the checks.

Of the 21 checks, only one location sold to the minor. The majority of retailers were asking for identification and inputting that ID information into the register.

Recent Healthy Youth Survey data indicates that 33 percent of high school seniors have reported using an e-cigarette within the last three days. KCPHD will continue to work to decrease this usage rate.

Kittitas County Schools Praised for Air Quality Response

Kittitas County experienced some air quality issues in the late summer this year and the school districts responded accordingly.

Around the same time that students were starting to practice soccer, cross country, football, and band, air quality was ranging from moderate to unhealthy due to wildfire smoke.

School districts within Kittitas County were communicating with guardians, providing information via websites, and moving practices indoor when necessary. The response received accolades from the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology).

According to Ecology, they would “encourage all counties to use this as a model on how to

uniformly deal with wildfire smoke and modifying or cancelling outdoor school activities.”

“We thank our schools for keeping our students safe and moving activities indoors when needed,” said Administrator Robin Read.

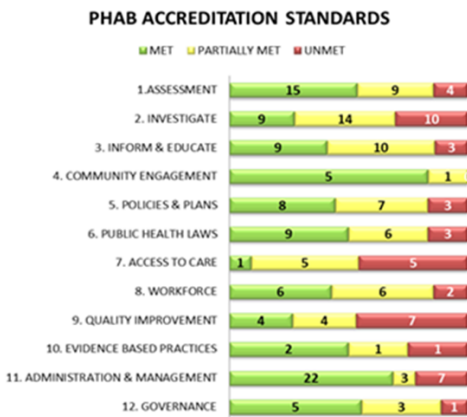
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KCPHD is Working Towards Accreditation

In January of this year, KCPHD staff created an accreditation support team, in order to begin working towards public health accreditation certification. Accreditation would provide quality and

performance improvement by measuring our work against nationally recognized performance standards. There are seven steps in the accreditation process. Currently, KCPHD is in the

first step of pre-accreditation. The 12 standards, measures, and required documentation were reviewed using a red, yellow, and green color system. Green indicates that we currently meet the measure and have documentation. Yellow means we have a process started, but need documentation or finalization. Red indicates that work towards the measure has not started. The next step is completing our statement of intent to apply.



Water Mitigation Open Houses Provided for the Public

During July, KCPHD hosted two open houses to discuss the Kittitas County Water Bank. The first open house was held on July 9 in the upper county at the Putnam Centennial Center. The second open house was held on July 16 in Ellensburg at the Kittitas County Armory.

The open houses were an effort to get public feedback about the proposed water bank and metering programs set to be implemented December 2, 2015.

At the two events, staff provided presentations about water quantity, water banking, and water metering.

After introductions and presentations, participants had an opportunity to break into

smaller groups, with topics that were most pressing to their interests. Smaller sessions included water banking and permanent regulations, mitigation and metering processes, enforcement, water quantity,

and a session to look up particular parcel information. Finally, participants had the chance to ask any unanswered questions.

Come chat with us about the Kittitas County Water Bank!

Please join Kittitas County Public Health Department for an open house to discuss the Kittitas County Water Bank Program. Topics will include :

- Water quantity
- Water banking
- Water metering

<p>UPPER COUNTY July 9, 2015 6:00PM Putnam Centennial Center 719 E 3rd Street Cle Elum, WA 98922</p>	<p>LOWER COUNTY July 16, 2015 6:00PM Kittitas County Armory 901 E 7th Avenue Ellensburg, WA 98926</p>
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Environmental Health (EH)

EH Complaints 36

Living Environment

Schools

Building Inspections 0

Public Pools & Spas

Permits Issued 0

Inspections 23

Camps & Parks

Permits Issued 0

Inspections 0

Solid Waste

Permits Issued 0

Inspections 8

On-Site Sewage

Installation Permits Issued 67

Finalized Permits 43

Site Evaluations 68

Inspections 48

Food Safety

Permits

Permanent Food Establishment Applications 26

Temporary Food Establishment Applications 36

Food Handler's Permits 912

Inspections

Establishment Inspections 153

Temporary Event Inspections 139

Drinking Water

Group A Water System Sanitary Surveys 4

Group B Water System Inspections 0

Individual Well Site Application Reviews 32

Adequate Water Supply Determination Applications 114

Well Delegation Inspections 6

? **Did you know?** ?

- August is National Breastfeeding Month.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends breastfeeding continue for at least 12 months.
- Breastfeeding has to be learned and according to WHO, many women encounter difficulties in the beginning.
- Washington State law protects a mother's right to breastfeed in public places.
- Employers are required to provide "reasonable break time for an employee to express breast milk."
- According to WHO, about 800,000 children's lives could be saved every year among children under 5, if all 0-23 month old kids were breastfed.



Board of Health is Open to the Public

Anyone can visit a Board of Health meeting in Kittitas County. Meetings are held the third Thursday of every month at 10:00 am. Each meeting is held in the Commissioners' Auditorium located at 205 W. 5th Avenue.

Meeting agendas and minutes

are available to the public at <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/health/board.aspx>

Meeting topics range from agency updates to hot topics. In addition, the local Health Officer Dr. Larson holds timely discussions with the Board of Health members

along with an update from our Administrator.

"The public may visit and participate at any time and we absolutely welcome the participation," states Gary Berndt, Kittitas County Commissioner.

Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC) Manages Funds

The Kittitas Board of Health Advisory Committee approved transferring its funds from a savings account to an Edward Jones account.

BOHAC received a generous donation from former Kittitas County Health Officer Jim Gale.

The funds are used for public health projects approved by BOHAC, and most recently, to fund the annual Kittitas County Public Health Champion Award.

The motion to approve the funds transfer will place the majority of the funds in order

to increase on the monthly return for that resource.

More information about BOHAC can be found at <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/health/committees/board-of-health-advisory-committee.aspx>

Quality Improvement Projects Underway at KCPHD

KCPHD continues to work on four projects within the department. The car checkout process is the farthest along and currently in the testing phase.

All staff are testing out the new process for car checkout, which includes a new binder checkout system. After data is collected from the testing phase, the Quality

Improvement Leadership Team (QILT) will evaluate the data. If data shows that there has been improvement in the way the car fleet is managed, QILT will move to control phase to ensure the helpful changes stay in place.

